

# Washington Commerce Corridor Environment and Community

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## Analysis Outline

- **Identification of Potential Environmental Issues**
  - Identify Potential Fatal Flaws
  - Assessment of likely environmental impacts for potential alignment area
  - Assessment and recommendations for an efficient approach to environmental permitting
- **Identification of Potential Community Issues**
  - Consistency with the GMA and Comprehensive Plans
  - Relationship to UGA Boundaries
  - Community Economic Impact Analysis

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## Identification of Potential Environmental Issues

- **Fatal Flaws**

- Identification
- Possible avoidance and discussion of impact to corridor feasibility
  - Example: Cedar River Watershed – Current portion of corridor area passes through watershed. Potential impacts to the area may force alternate route or significant mitigation costs that would decrease overall corridor feasibility.

- **Natural Constraints**

- Wildlife/Threatened and Endangered Species
  - Example: What is the proximity of threatened and endangered species and priority habitat to the proposed corridor area and how does this impact the overall corridor feasibility?
- Streams and Wetlands
- Landslide and Seismic Hazards

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### Identification of Potential Environmental Issues (cont.)

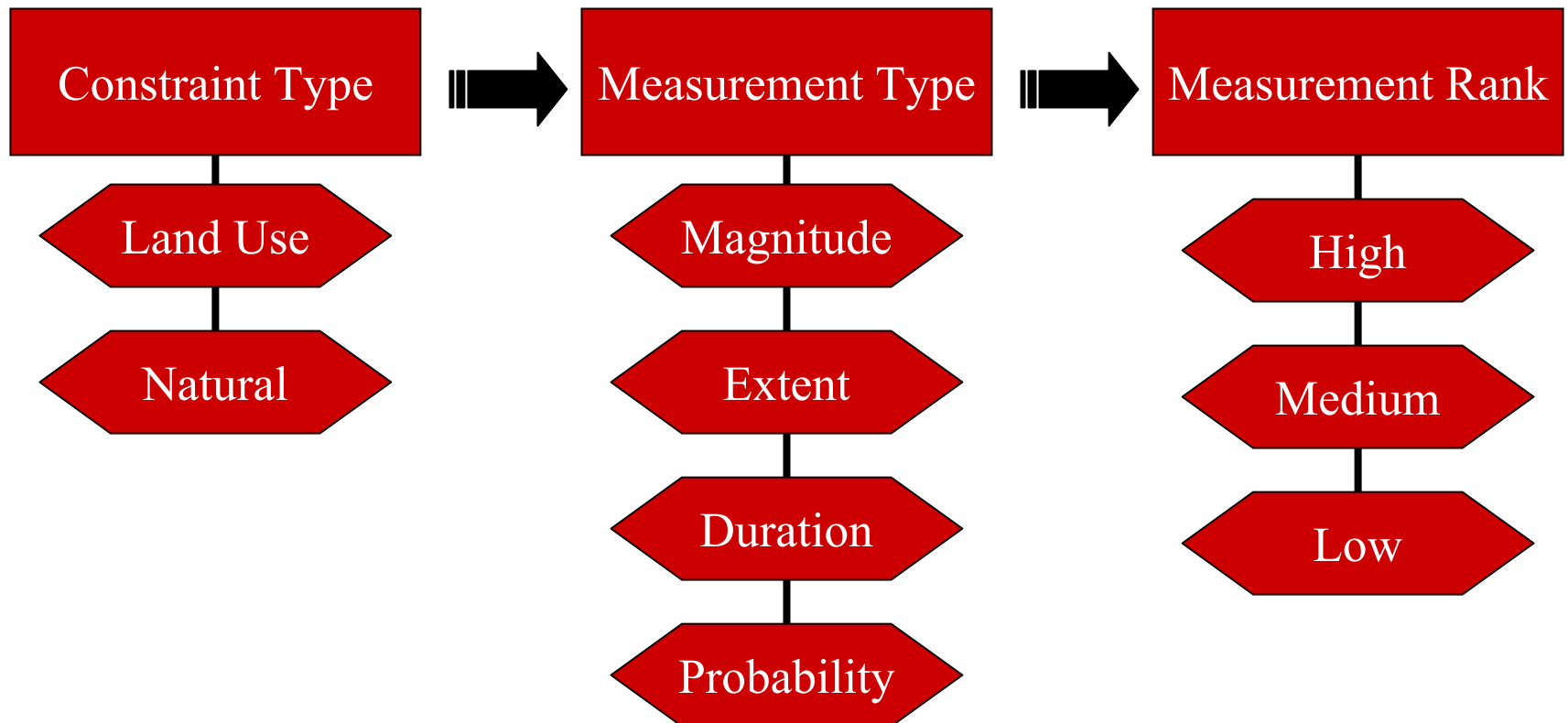
- **Land Use Constraints**

- Historic Districts/Sites
- Indian Reservations
  - Example: One possible corridor area crosses Muckleshoot Indian Tribe land. What are the potential land use and cultural impacts of this route and how does this influence the corridor's feasibility?
- Municipal Watersheds
- Urban Growth Areas
- National Forests
- Parks and Recreation Lands
- Distribution of current land uses/zoning (residential, rural, agriculture)

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## Identification of Potential Environmental Issues (cont.)

### **Impact Process: Relationship of Impacts to Overall Corridor Feasibility**



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### Identification of Potential Environmental Issues (cont.)

- **Assessment and recommendations for an efficient approach to environmental permitting**
  - Current Permitting and Review Framework
    - The current environmental review framework in Washington
    - Existing State and Federal environmental permitting
      - Responsible Agencies
      - Types of environmental permits required in Washington
    - Overview of those permits that may be required for WCC
  - WCC Challenges under Existing Environmental Review
    - Existing Streamlining Activities for Transportation Projects in WA
  - Opportunities for an Innovative Review/Permitting Authority

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### Identification of potential community issues

- **WCC Consistency with the Growth Management Act (GMA)**
  - 13 Planning Goals of the GMA (RCW 30.70A.020)
    - Does the concept of the WCC adhere to the planning goals of the GMA, and if not, what influence does this have on the corridor's feasibility?
  - Siting of Essential Public Facilities (RCW 36.70A.200) in Each Affected County
    - What are the differences in County regulations for siting of essential public facilities such as regional transportation systems?
- **Relationship to Urban Growth Area (UGA) Boundaries**
  - Individual county summary discussing location and extent of UGA boundaries near the WCC area.

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### Identification of potential community issues (cont.)

- **Community Economic Impact Analysis**
  - The economic aspects of investment in the commerce corridor
    - Washington State is the Pacific Northwest's gateway to the Asia Pacific economies
    - Moving vast amounts of goods, services and people generates jobs and wealth in the region.
    - Various trade facilities - marine ports, airports, inter-modal yards, and worksites - are connected by an increasingly congested urban transportation network

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## Identification of potential community issues (cont.)

- **Community Economic Impact Analysis**
  - Puget Sound competes with other West Coast gateways for business and jobs
    - Address rising congestion and insufficiency to sustain future regional growth
    - Gridlock damages international competitiveness for regional companies and the environment
  - Infrastructure investment versus failure to invest
    - Macro-level—determine the economic impact of the Commerce Corridor on the Puget Sound region and the State of Washington *and* the economic consequences of inaction (status quo).



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### Identification of potential community issues (cont.)

- **Economic Impacts**
  - General range of economic impacts of construction and operation of commerce corridor
    - Effects of construction-related investments on existing region and communities
      - Industry types with increased output
      - Jobs and labor income
      - Total spending
    - Operation phase of commerce corridor
      - Qualitative contribution to industry competitiveness and growth

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### Identification of potential community issues (cont.)

- **Community Benefits and Costs**
  - Issues and concerns addressed in analysis
    - Range of economic impacts associated with siting, constructing and operating the proposed commerce corridor.
      - Measured by potential change in jobs and earnings, overall economic activity
    - Identify distributional effects of proposed commerce corridor
      - How localized are the benefits? Are costs disproportional?
      - Increased accessibility or lack of access?
    - Time dimension within analysis
      - Do these benefits and costs occur in the short term or long term?

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## Identification of potential community issues (cont.)

- **Community Benefits and Costs**
  - Types of direct and indirect benefits and costs
    - Increased safety; reduced congestion; increased choice and accessibility
    - Other benefits on business costs and productivity; labor market impacts; attractiveness to new businesses and residents
    - Costs could include loss of farmland; effect on property values; loss of access; and possible diminishment of quality of life

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### Identification of potential community issues (cont.)

- **Environmental Justice**

- A different perspective—project related impacts on minority or low-income populations
  - Is there a disproportionately high and adverse impact on these groups?

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## Next Steps for Environmental and Community Analysis

- **Finish Research and study of financial issues**
- **Produce technical memo**